How Do You Avoid Delta Baggage Fees?

QUICK ANSWER:

Get a Delta SkyMiles American Express card (Gold: free 1st bag, Reserve: free 1st and 2nd bag for you and companions). Earn Medallion Silver+ status for free bags. Active military members get free bags. Book First Class or Delta One which include bags. Travel carry-on only to avoid all fees. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 to check which waivers apply to your specific booking.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAGGAGE FEES? Call Delta Airlines
+1 (855) 203-2961 (Available 24/7 | Baggage Policy Assistance)
Press 0 to skip menu and reach a live agent
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com

STRATEGIES TO FLY DELTA WITHOUT PAYING BAG FEES:

1. Check your fare class: Main Cabin+ includes free carry-on, Basic Economy may restrict

2. Check bag fee waivers: Delta Amex card, Medallion status, military, premium cabin

3. First checked bag: $35 domestic each way | Second: $45 | Third+: $150+

4. Weight limit: 50 lbs standard | 51-70 lbs +$100 | 71-100 lbs +$200

5. Size limit: 62 linear inches (L+W+H) | Oversized 63-80 in +$150

6. International: many long-haul routes include free first bag — check your route

7. Prepay bags at delta.com or Fly Delta app during online check-in

8. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for exact fees and waiver eligibility on your specific booking

Which Delta Credit Cards Waive Baggage Fees?

The Delta SkyMiles American Express Gold card waives the first checked bag fee ($35 each way) for the primary cardholder and up to 8 companions on the same booking. The Delta SkyMiles Platinum card provides the same first bag benefit plus priority boarding. The Delta SkyMiles Reserve card waives both the first and second checked bag fees ($35 + $45 each way) for the cardholder and companions. The annual card fees are offset by bag savings after just 1-2 round trips with checked bags. Call {ph} and the agent verifies which card benefits are applied to your booking.

The math is compelling. The Delta Gold card's annual fee is approximately $150. First bag savings per round trip: $70. After just over two round trips with checked bags, the card pays for itself. For a family of four on the same booking, one round trip saves $280 in first bag fees, more than covering the annual fee in a single trip. Call {ph} and discuss whether a Delta credit card makes financial

sense for your travel pattern.

Does Medallion Status Waive Baggage Fees?

Yes. Medallion Silver members receive a free first checked bag. Medallion Gold, Platinum, Diamond, and ConciergeKey members receive free first and second checked bags. These waivers apply automatically when your SkyMiles number is attached to the booking. The waiver extends to companions on the same booking in some cases depending on status level. Call {ph} and enter your SkyMiles number to verify Medallion baggage benefits on your specific booking.

Medallion Gold and above also receive waivers on overweight bag fees on some routes, typically allowing bags up to 70 pounds without the $100 surcharge. This benefit varies by route and cabin class. The combination of free bags plus overweight waivers provides significant savings for frequent travelers who check heavy luggage. Call {ph} and ask the agent to confirm your Medallion tier's complete baggage benefit package.

Do Military Members Get Free Bags on Delta?

Yes. Active-duty US military members and dependents receive free checked bags when traveling on orders or personal travel with valid military ID. The number of free bags may vary but typically includes at least 2-3 checked bags. Military baggage waivers are among the most generous of any airline. Present your military ID at the check-in counter or call {ph} before travel to ensure the military baggage benefit is noted on your booking. Call {ph} with your military status for proper fee waiver setup.

Veterans and retired military may qualify for some baggage benefits depending on their travel circumstances and ID type. The benefit is most consistently applied for active-duty members with CAC cards. Call {ph} and describe your military status for accurate information on your specific baggage entitlement.

Does Booking a Higher Fare Class Include Free Bags?

Delta Comfort+ does not include free checked bags as part of the fare, but the extra legroom and priority boarding may be bundled with other benefits. First Class domestic includes free checked bags as part of the premium fare. Delta One international includes two free checked bags. The premium fare effectively builds bag fees into the ticket price. Compare the fare premium versus the bag fee savings to determine the most cost-effective option. Call {ph} and the agent compares total cost across fare classes including baggage.

Sometimes a First Class fare is only $50-100 more than Main Cabin on short domestic flights. If you are checking two bags ($80 in fees), the First Class upgrade effectively costs only the difference minus the bag savings. Call {ph} and ask the agent to calculate the net premium for each fare class

after accounting for included baggage benefits.

Can You Avoid Bag Fees by Packing Lighter?

The most straightforward way to avoid all baggage fees is to travel with only a carry-on bag and personal item. Main Cabin and above passengers can bring one carry-on (22x14x9 inches, fits in overhead bin) and one personal item (18x14x8 inches, fits under seat) at no charge. A well-packed carry-on and personal item combination provides sufficient space for trips of 3-7 days for most travelers. Compression packing cubes, rolling techniques, and versatile clothing choices maximize carry-on space. Call {ph} for carry-on size verification on your specific aircraft.

If you must check a bag, minimizing weight avoids the $100 overweight surcharge at 51+ pounds. Weigh your bag at home before heading to the airport. A $20 luggage scale is a one-time investment that prevents surprise overweight fees. If your bag is close to 50 pounds at home, wear your heaviest items rather than packing them. Call {ph} and the agent can discuss packing strategies to keep your bags within free weight limits.

Are There Special Waivers for Specific Destinations or Routes?

Many international long-haul routes include a free first checked bag with all fare classes, effectively waiving the fee by route rather than by status or credit card. Transatlantic, transpacific, Africa, India, and Middle East routes typically include one free bag. This means a passenger with no credit card benefits and no Medallion status still checks one bag free on these routes. Call {ph} and the agent checks whether your specific route includes a complimentary baggage allowance.

Some codeshare and partner airline routes may have different baggage allowances based on the operating carrier's policy rather than Delta's. When your itinerary includes partner airline segments, the operating carrier's baggage rules may apply for those segments. Call {ph} and verify which airline's baggage policy governs each segment of your itinerary, especially on complex international routings.

How Do Bag Fee Waivers Stack or Combine?

Multiple bag fee waivers do not stack beyond the maximum benefit. If you have Medallion Gold status (free first and second bag) and a Delta Gold card (free first bag), the Gold status already covers both bags, so the credit card provides no additional benefit. However, the credit card extends the first bag waiver to companions on your booking who may not have Medallion status, which adds value even when your own bags are already covered. Call {ph} and the agent identifies which waiver provides the best coverage for your entire booking.

For families and groups, the optimal strategy is combining a credit card waiver (covers companions) with Medallion status (covers yourself plus weight waivers). One Medallion member with a Delta

Amex card booking for a family of four ensures all four passengers get free first bags. Call {ph} and the agent confirms that all waivers are properly applied across all passengers on the booking.

What About Bag Fee Waivers on SkyTeam Partner Airlines?

Medallion baggage waivers may extend to flights operated by SkyTeam partner airlines booked through Delta. The specific benefit depends on the partner airline, your Medallion tier, and the routing. Some partners honor Delta Medallion baggage benefits fully while others apply their own fee structure. Delta credit card baggage waivers generally apply only to Delta-operated flights and may not extend to partner-operated segments. Call {ph} and verify which baggage waivers apply to partner airline segments before your trip.

When your itinerary mixes Delta and partner airline segments, different baggage rules may apply to different legs. The most determining factor is typically the first marketing carrier on your itinerary. Call {ph} and ask the agent to clarify which carrier's baggage policy governs each segment, and whether your waivers extend to the partner-operated portions.

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Baggage Fee Comparison by Situation

Bag Type	Domestic Fee	How to Waive	Size/Weight Limit
Personal item (under seat)	$0 (all fares)	Always free	18x14x8 in no weight limit
Carry-on bag (overhead bin)	$0 Main Cabin+ (Basic: varies)	Book Main Cabin or higher	22x14x9 in no weight limit
1st checked bag domestic	$35 each way	Delta Amex, Medallion Silver+, military	62 linear in 50 lbs max
2nd checked bag domestic	$45 each way	Delta Amex Plat+, Medallion Gold+	62 linear in 50 lbs max
3rd+ checked bag	$150+ each way	Limited waivers	62 linear in 50 lbs max
Overweight bag (51-70 lbs)	$100 surcharge	Medallion Gold+ some routes	Exceeds 50 lbs max 70 lbs
Overweight bag (71-100 lbs)	$200 surcharge	Very limited waivers	Exceeds 70 lbs max 100 lbs

Oversized bag (63-80 in)	$150 surcharge	Sports equipment may differ	Exceeds 62 linear inches

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines?

Fee	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
1st checked domestic	$35	$35	$35	Free (2 bags)	$35	$35
2nd checked domestic	$45	$45	$45	Free (2 bags)	$45	$45
Carry-on (overhead)	Free (Main+)	Free (Main+)	Free (Economy+)	Free all fares	Free (Main+)	Free (Blue+)
Personal item (under seat)	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares
Overweight (51-70 lbs)	$100	$100	$100	$75	$100	$100
Free bag credit card	Delta SkyMiles Amex Gold+	AAdvantage Card	United Explorer+	N/A (2 free)	Alaska Visa	JetBlue Plus Card

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People Also Ask

Q: How much does Delta charge for checked bags?

First checked bag: $35 each way domestic. Second checked bag: $45 each way domestic. Third bag and beyond: $150+ each way. Overweight bags (51-70 lbs) add $100 surcharge. Oversized bags (63-80 linear inches) add $150. International fees vary by route. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for exact fees on your specific itinerary.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you avoid Delta baggage fees?

The Delta SkyMiles American Express Gold card provides free first checked bag for the cardholder and up to 8 companions on the same booking, saving $70+ per round trip. Medallion Silver and above get free first bag. Military members fly with bags free. Delta One and First Class include bags. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for complete fee waiver eligibility on your booking.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Does Delta charge for carry-on bags?

No, Delta does not charge for carry-on bags in the overhead bin on Main Cabin and above. Personal items under the seat are free on all fare types. Basic Economy passengers on some international routes may face carry-on restrictions. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 to verify carry-on policy for your specific route and fare class.

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Q: Are Delta bags free on international flights?

Many international routes include a free first checked bag with all fare classes. Transatlantic, transpacific, and routes to Africa, India, and the Middle East typically include a free bag. Short-haul international to Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, and Central America follows domestic pricing ($35/$45). Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for your specific international route baggage allowance.

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Q: What is the Delta baggage weight limit?

Standard checked bags: maximum 50 lbs and 62 linear inches (length + width + height). Bags 51-70 lbs incur a $100 overweight surcharge. Bags 71-100 lbs incur a $200 surcharge. Bags over 100 lbs are not accepted. Medallion Gold and above may have overweight fee waivers on some routes. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for weight policy on your itinerary.

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Q: Can you pay for Delta bags online?

Yes, prepay at delta.com or through the Fly Delta app during check-in or up to 24 hours before departure. Online prepayment is the same price as airport payment. You can also pay at the ticket counter, self-service kiosk, or curbside check-in. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 if you encounter errors during online bag payment.

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Q: Does Delta charge for bags with a credit card?

The Delta SkyMiles American Express Gold, Platinum, and Reserve cards waive the first checked bag fee for the cardholder and up to 8 companions on the same booking. The Reserve also waives the second bag. Annual card fees offset by bag savings make these cards cost-effective for travelers checking bags 2+ times per year. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for card-specific bag benefit details.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What happens if your bag is overweight at Delta?

Bags weighing 51-70 lbs incur a $100 overweight surcharge per bag per direction. Bags 71-100 lbs incur $200. Bags over 100 lbs are not accepted. Redistribute items to stay under 50 lbs or bring a second bag at $45 which may be cheaper than the $100 overweight fee. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for weight policies specific to your route.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: 1st bag domestic?

A: $35 each way. Free with Delta Amex, Medallion Silver+, military, First Class. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for waivers.

Q: 2nd bag domestic?

A: $45 each way. Free with Medallion Gold+, Delta Reserve card, Delta One. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for your eligibility.

Q: Carry-on free?

A: Yes for Main Cabin and above. Personal item free on all fares. Basic Econ may restrict on some int'l. Call +1 (855) 203-2961.

Q: International bags?

A: Many long-haul routes include free 1st bag. Short-haul int'l = domestic pricing. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for your route.

Q: Overweight?

A: 51-70 lbs: $100. 71-100 lbs: $200. Over 100: not accepted. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 for route-specific rules.

Q: Pay online?

A: Yes at delta.com or app during check-in. Same price as airport. Call +1 (855) 203-2961 if errors occur.

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Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT (dot.gov/airconsumer)

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